

SAIONJI-MARADA MEMOIRS

Chapter 251 (13 October 1937)

The British Ambassador said: "On the whole, I think it is a very rational plan. However, England does not want to touch on ideological problems, so in this respect anti-communist clauses are unfavorable. Therefore, how about handling this anti-communist clause by special methods such as the conclusion of a secret Sino-Japanese pact?" He made this sort of suggestion. - - -

- - - on the morning of the 2nd, - - - I met the Foreign Minister at his official residence. He said: "The British Ambassador said: 'England is willing at any time to act as an intermediary, but isn't it possible for the Japanese Government to make the proposal?' I said 'If the Nanking Government seems ready to comply, we would like to make definite overtures. However, I wish you would negotiate with Nanking saying that certain reliable sources instructed you to do so. Please do not say that the Foreign Minister said such things.' The British Ambassador replied: 'If I say it is from reliable sources, it will be of no use. I will not be able to negotiate with him unless I tell him that you said so.' I replied: 'This is just my opinion, so you may use the name of Hirota. Please say that Hirota requested you to do this.' Later, the British Ambassador said: 'According to reports from Nanking, they say that Chiang Kai-shek is ready at any time to carry out negotiations. The only thing is that it is difficult for the Chinese to propose this matter.' I said: 'If China has such preparations, Japan can send an unofficial representative and meet somewhere around Shanghai with the Chinese representative. It is sufficient if England opens the negotiations, but it will be bad if she should stand in the fore and intervene as a third party. It is disagreeable to have interference from the League of Nations and the Nine Power Conferences and

I would like to have just the understanding of England. Of course, Japan has no monopolistic desires concerning rights and so forth in China.'

Upon watching the subsequent doings of the League, the English representatives said at the minority committee: 'This problem is said to concern just two countries. However, there is a great amount of foreign interests involved, so let us create a minority committee.' They have created an atmosphere which strives for Sino-Japanese cooperation, but Europe is still unfamiliar with Far Eastern matters so it was their intention not to interfere with the cooperation of Japan and China. This seemed to be the result of Ambassador to Japan Craigie's efforts, and China will never respond unless England is pulled towards our side. There are some people in Army circles who say that we should openly request the mediation of United States. It is permissible to request the open mediation of United States when the request which is made of England fails, but I do not believe that it is such a time."

原田寺原田日記 昭和十二年十月十三日 第二百五十一回

それから英大使は「大體に於て極めて合理的な要求だと思ふ。イギリスとしては思惟問題には胸を張る。だから防共に關しては特別な方法で日支直接交渉といふやうな事をやつたらどうか」といふやうなセッションをして居つた。

二日朝「――」外務大臣に會つた處が「イギリスの大使は何時でも仲介の勞を執るが日本政府から申出することは出来まいかと」言つて來たから「南京が動くやうならばこつちも仕を決めたいが、ある確かな筋から――」と言つて南京に通じて貰ひたい。外務大臣が斯う言つたとか言ふ事は困る」と言つた處が「確かな筋では困る、やつぱり君が言つたと云ふ事ではない」と話にならない」と英國の大使が言ふので「それなら自分だけの考で言ふので、廣田の名前を使つて宜しい。結局廣田から聞いたと云ふ事で言づけてくれ」と云ふ事でやつた處が、其

後英國大使の話した「南京からは蒋介石の方は何時でも用意がある、支那側から言ひ出しにくいから、非公式に日本から人を出し支那からも人を出して上海あたりで會はして貰ひ度い。兎に角英國は糸口だけになつてくれ、け好いので表に立つて所請第三國の介入といふこと、なると困る又九ヶ條條約とか聯盟とかか彼と言ふやうな事も困るが英國だけに話して居ることにした。それから又日本は支那に對して例へば利益について何も何にしても獨占的な考は無論ない。』といふことを話しておいた其後聯盟の様子を見ても英國代表が小數委員會で「此の問題は二國間と云ふのだけれども他國の利益が多分に入つて居るから、聯盟は小委員會を造つて見よう」といふので、日本と支那と兩方を接近せしめる様を空氣を造つて、尙ほ東洋のことに就ては事實に於て歐羅巴は明るくないのであるから少くとも兩方の接近するのに邪魔になるやうなことはしないといふ空想を作つて居たのも矢張り日大使のクレイギーの勢力があつたやうに感ぜられて、英國を引つ張つて置かなければ支那は到底動くもの

ではない——————  
 でイギリスあたりで非常に空気の悪いのは當然のことであつて、香港を見  
 ても彼の海軍の封鎖で以つて日用の魚が入らないといふやうな情況である  
 と云ふような事であつた。尙廣田外務大臣の話に「イタリ」と日本と防  
 共のみならず更に軍事同盟の如きものを伊太利駐在の堀田大使に言つて置いた  
 協定だけで宜しい」と云ふことを伊太利駐在の堀田大使に言つて置いた」